

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Summary of the Office Action

In the Office Action dated November 16, 2006, the Examiner has withdrawn *sua sponte* claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, and 15 from consideration, alleging that those claims are drawn to a non-elected species rather than to the elected embodiment of Fig. 1.

The remaining claims 17, 19, and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 for allegedly referring to a non-elected embodiment.

Applicant's Response

Applicants fail to understand the basis for the Examiner's holding, because the embodiment of Fig. 1 is directed, among others, to a bending section "designed as a spiral cut" and "formed with a selectable number of spiral sections." *Applicants' Specification*, paragraph [0032].

Claim 3, withdrawn by the Examiner, contains the limitation "wherein the plurality of offset cuts are spiral cuts." Therefore, claim 3 is readable on the elected embodiment.

Claim 1 includes the limitation "the bending section including a plurality of offset cuts." The language of claim 3 indicates that "offset cuts" is a term used to indicate different types of cuts, including spiral cuts. Other claims also are readable on the elected embodiment.

Telephone calls and related voice mails, placed to the Examiner or to the Examiner's supervisor on February 2, 8, 14, and 15 (two times) and having the purpose of clarifying the above inconsistencies, were not returned.

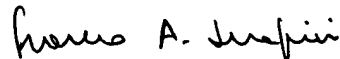
In order to expedite allowance of the present application and without restrictive intent, Applicants have withdrawn claims 1, 7, 9, 10, and 15 and canceled claims 3, 17, 19, and 20. New claims 26-34 have been introduced. Each of claims 26-34 is supported by the specification and is directed to the elected embodiment.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of the present application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

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Respectfully submitted,



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